

**Virginia African American Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes (Draft)
June 17, 2021**

Members Present

Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Rev. Cozy Bailey, Cameron D. Patterson, Robert Barnette Jr., Xavier L. Beale, Larry D. Boone, Hope F. Cupit, Keren Charles Dongo, Gaylene Kanoyton, Yvonne Lewis, Eduardo Lopez, Esq, Dr. Monica Motley, Precious Rasheeda Muhammad, Monica L. Reid, Dr. Van C. Wilson

Members Absent

Gilbert T. Bland, Xavier L. Beale, Zyahna Bryant, Shirley Ginwright, Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant, Toria Edmonds Howe, Eldon Burton

Governor's Staff Present

Hon. Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Hon. Dr. Janice Underwood, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer
Suzanne Holland, Special Assistant for Advisory Boards & Director of Women's Outreach
Mona Siddiqui, Deputy Chief Diversity Officer & Senior Policy Advisor, Office of New Americans

Additional Guest

Justin Bell, Office of the Attorney General

Roll Call for the June 17th

Cameron Patterson, Secretary for the Virginia African American Advisory Committee took roll.

- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Chair – Present
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary – Present
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) Vice Chair- Present
- Gilbert T. Bland – Absent
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Present
- Xavier L. Beale – Absent
- Larry D. Boone – Present
- Zyahna Bryant – Absent
- Hope F. Cupit – Present
- Keren Charles Dongo – Present
- Shirley Ginwright – Absent
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Absent
- Toria Edmonds Howe – Absent
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Present
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Present
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Present
- Dr. Monica Motley – Present
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Present
- Monica L. Reid – Present

- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Present
- Eldon Burton – Absent

Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the April 8th minutes was made by Dr. Ivey Green and seconded by Yvonne Lewis.

- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Chair – Aye
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary – Aye
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) Vice Chair- Aye
- Gilbert T. Bland – Absent
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Aye
- Xavier L. Beale – Absent
- Larry D. Boone – Aye
- Zyahna Bryant – Absent
- Hope F. Cupit – Aye
- Keren Charles Dongo – Aye
- Shirley Ginwright – Absent
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Absent
- Toria Edmonds Howe – Absent
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Aye
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Aye
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Aye
- Dr. Monica Motley – Absent
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Aye
- Monica L. Reid – Aye
- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Aye
- Eldon Burton – Absent

A motion to approve the May 13th minutes was made by Yvonne Lewis and seconded by Dr. Van Wilson.

- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Chair – Aye
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary – Aye
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) Vice Chair- Aye
- Gilbert T. Bland – Absent
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Aye
- Xavier L. Beale – Absent
- Larry D. Boone – Aye
- Zyahna Bryant – Absent
- Hope F. Cupit – Aye
- Keren Charles Dongo – Aye
- Shirley Ginwright – Absent
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Absent
- Toria Edmonds Howe – Absent
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Aye
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Aye
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Aye
- Dr. Monica Motley – Absent
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Aye
- Monica L. Reid – Aye

- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Aye
- Eldon Burton – Absent

Public Comment

Cameron Patterson with assistance from Suzanne Holland asked if there were public comment participants. Alyson Stewart with the Women’s Initiative in Charlottesville addressed the Board. Paula Robinson from the State Council for Higher Education joined to address the board as well.

Chair’s Report:

Dr. Ivey Green shared comments to the Board regarding our Annual Report. Dr. Ivey Green mentioned the outline of the Annual Report. She said that the reports should provide an opening overview, stating of the recommendations, closing, and transition to allow for flow from one subject matter to the other. Karen Charles Dongo asked about the word limit. Dr. Ivey Green mentioned 4-5 pages tops per committee. She mentioned that Board members has the appendixes to offer additional information that the Cabinet might need. Dr. Ivey Green did make a call for editing and shared her appreciation for the Board’s energy. Dr. Ivey Green mentioned the survey and asked the Board to push it out to 25 individuals. Dr. Ivey Green also mentioned how well the Black Table Talks have been well executed and thanked the Health & Environment Committee for being the first to test this new format and series. Dr. Ivey Green also encouraged the Board to consider championing voter suppression as one of our issues of focus.

Board, Administrative, & Outreach Update:

Suzanne Holland shared a Board, Administrative, and Outreach update. In the absence of Deputy Secretary DeShazor she also highlighted the Outreach Update. Suzanne shared the VAAAB@governor.virginia.gov email, VAAAB social media page, and encouraged Board members to consider to share the social media pages. The next Board meeting of the VAAAB will be September 16, 2021. We will be transitioning to in-person meetings and will check on whether we can do hybrid. Suzanne asked that Board members continue to share their service of what they are doing in the community. Suzanne also shared some member updates, including Chief Boone’s recent publication “Policing in the 21st Century” and “Black Lives Matter to Norfolk Police Chief”. Suzanne introduced Ja’Neese Jefferson who is working with the Virginia African American Advisory Board as a Governor’s Fellow. She offered her assistance towards our projects and efforts during her time in the office. Suzanne announced the launch of the Return to Earn Grant Program, the signing of the Probation Reform Bill, provided a update regarding the Independent Investigation of the Virginia Military Institute.

As it relates to outreach, Suzanne highlighted Juneteenth Celebrations across the Commonwealth, including the Juneteenth Celebration at Fort Monroe. Suzanne highlighted Loving Day and a Board & Commission Work shop with the Devine Nine and the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Finally, Suzanne highlighted the newly created Cannabis Boards, which applications are being accepted. A conversation was held regarding COVID-19 Vaccination Data. Concern was raised by board members regarding those numbers and what we might do to combat that. Gaylene Kanoyton mentioned that we must work to combat the myths and hesitation particularly amongst young people. Eduardo Lopez also expressed concern that we can just say it is only about the myths. He mentioned that there are concerns about the vaccination rate even amongst our Latino population.

Secretary Kelly Thomasson joined the meeting to share some updates. She shared that the LGBTQ Advisory Board has been established and members are being recruited to serve in this new role. The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth also handles Executive Clemency. That work continues to

be done and they are trying to devote some additional resources to that effort in the final months. Restoration of Rights work continues as well. During the next legislative session, they will continue work to pass automatic restoration of rights legislation, if passed it will go to the ballot as a referendum. The Secretary also mentioned the Cannabis Advisory Boards to get that industry up and running.

Virginia African American Advisory Board Survey Update:

Dr. Monica Motley shared an update regarding the VAAAB Survey. She indicated that we met our first goal of 150 participants. She thanked the Board for their effort. She challenged us to continue going and mentioned that the goal is to oversample, this just gives us greater confidence that those who completed are accurately reflecting the African American population in Virginia. Dr. Motley shared some preliminary data with the Board from those who have already taken the survey. Dr. Motley mentioned that she had data regarding zip codes and where survey participants were coming from. Dr. Motley charged the Board to promote and recruit people to take the survey.

Committee Reports:

Dr. Ivey Green turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Bailey to facilitate our Committee Reports.

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Chief Boone mentioned that Norfolk is putting the final touch on their Use of Force dashboard to show where it is used most in the city, by whom, on whom, and the type of force used. Chief Boone mentioned that the Norfolk Citizen Review Board will have the opportunity to review the data. Chief Boone mentioned that the Black Table Talks are coming together, narrowing down the topics and the panelist continues to be something that is focused on. July 14th, 6 p.m. is the date for the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Black Table Talk. During the meeting there was discussion on who to invite. The topics will be around policing and reforms that have been introduced. Logistics will be handled by the Administration and the conducting of the panel will be handled by the Committee.

Education & Workforce

The Education & Workforce Committee report was shared by Dr. Wilson in the absence of Dr. Grant. The Committee would be working to schedule a meeting to continue conversation regarding report items.

Health & Environment

Gaylene Kanoyton gave a report on behalf of the committee. She mentioned that the committee was interested in making sure that the items related to the booster shot will be funded. The committee also invited in the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture to learn about programs under her office. She mentioned wanting to have a webinar to share important information regarding programs. There was a interest in cross-committee collaboration with Small Black Owned Business and Education to talk about programs that effects Food Desert Areas. Hopefully we can target nonprofit, clergy, and other leaders. The Dula Program and additional resources will be a area of focus along with asthma.

Small Black Owned Business

Karen Charles Dongo shared a report and have made it a priority to talk with the various Chambers. The Committee would like to conduct a Black Owned Table Talk. It was shared that a lot of Black Owned Businesses just need to have a understanding of resources and where they can start related to contracting.

Along with providing resources that are federal and state related. Rev. Bailey mentioned that businesses they have been talking to indicated that there needs to be a focus on micro businesses.

Update from the Office of Diversity & Inclusion

Dr. Underwood joined the meeting to share an update on behalf of the Office of Diversity & Inclusion. She talked about the Office of New Americans. She first introduced her colleagues to the Board. The Office of New Americans was created by recent legislation. This office is thinking about immigrant integration amongst a multitude of races. The Office of New Americans has created a strategic plan. The number one issue from that is language access and thought is being given to how that can be approved. A language access audit is being conducted and that report is due by November 1st. The Commonwealth of Virginia launched an Equity Dashboard in late to mid-May that Dr. Underwood spoke about. The Virginia Health Equity Task Force presents two equity dashboards to influence decision making about public health. Virginia is the first in the nation to present these types of metrics in this way. Gaylene Kanoyton asked about future administrations and if the DEI work would remain. Dr. Underwood mentioned that this work is currently being funded by Covid related funding and they have to work to make sure that this does not go away even if the Covid funding does not go away.

Closing Comments

Dr. Ivey Green provided a recap regarding the meeting and where we are heading. She mentioned the Juneteenth Celebrations, particularly the one at Fort Monroe. She emphasized pushing the survey and reaching our next threshold as it relates to participation in the survey. Dr. Ivey Green mentioned the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Black Table Talk on June 14th at 6 p.m. She mentioned that we should continue to back in all the work done around Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by Dr. Underwood and her team to ensure that the work continues even after this administration concludes. And finally, June 30th will be the first draft of the 2021 Virginia African American Advisory Board report. Suzanne mentioned the proclamations that were sent out and shared some closing remarks.

Motion & Vote to Adjourn the Meeting

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rev. Cozy Bailey and second by Mrs. Yvonne Lewis.

- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Chair – Aye
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary – Aye
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) Vice Chair- Aye
- Gilbert T. Bland – Absent
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Aye
- Xavier L. Beale – Absent
- Larry D. Boone – Not Present
- Zyahna Bryant – Absent
- Hope F. Cupit – Aye
- Keren Charles Dongo – Aye
- Shirley Ginwright – Absent
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Absent
- Toria Edmonds Howe – Absent
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Aye
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Aye
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Aye
- Dr. Monica Motley – Absent

- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Aye
- Monica L. Reid – Aye Aye
- Dr. Van C. Wilson –Aye
- Eldon Burton – Absent